

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STOCKH 00093 090807Z

16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05 /087 W

----- 029461

R 090400Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6494

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 0093

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, IS, EG, SY, PLO, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH POSITION IN UNSC DEBATE ON MID-EAST

REF: (A) 75 STOCKHOLM 6532, (B) 75 STOCKHOLM 6315,

(C) 75 STOCKHOLM 6237

1. I CALLED ON MFA SECRETARY GENERAL SVERKER ASTROM JANUARY 8 FOR TOUR D'HORIZON. ASTROM SAID GOS IS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF FORMULATING ITS POSITION FOR JANUARY 12 UNSC DEBATE ON MID-EAST. ACCORDING TO ASTROM, GOS HOPES TO SPEAK IN DEBATE AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE, BECAUSE IN ADDITION TO INHERENT IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE ITSELF, GOS WILL BE "PRESENTING ITS CASE" TO SWEDISH PUBLIC IN EFFORT TO JUSTIFY ITS VOTE LAST MONTH SUPPORTING PLO PARTICIPATION IN UNSC DEBATE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 00093 090807Z

2. IN SPEECH TO THE UNSC, ASTROM SAID SWEDISH DELEGATE WILL ASSERT THAT VOTE BY GOS IN FAVOR OF PLO PARTICIPATION LAST MONTH REFLECTS GOS VIEW OF GROWING IMPORTANCE OF PALESTINE PROBLEM DURING LAST TWO YEARS AND RECOGNITION THAT PROBLEM CAN NO LONGER BE IGNORED AND MUST BE SOLVED. THE DELEGATE WILL ALSO STATE THAT IN GOS VIEW, PLO IS THE MOST RESPONSIBLE AMONG PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND MOST WIDELY RECOGNIZED AS SUCH.

3. ASTROM SAID GOS WILL OPPOSE ANY RESOLUTION WHICH IS "CONTRADICTORY TO, OR DEVIATES FROM," UN RESOLUTIONS 242 OR 338. HOWEVER, GOS HOPES THAT NO NEW RESOLUTIONS WILL BE PROPOSED, AND THAT DEBATE WILL FOLLOW PATTERN SET IN UNSC HANDLING LAST MONTH OF ICELANDIC-BRITISH FISHERIES DISPUTE, WHEN BOTH SIDES HAVING MADE THEIR PRESENTATIONS, THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED. ASTROM EMPHASIZED THAT GOS WILL ALSO OPPOSE ANY EFFORT TO MAKE THE SC THE FORUM FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON THE MID-EAST. HE SAID GOS CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT BEST HOPE FOR A SOLUTION IS THROUGH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, (STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH), OR POSSIBLY THROUGH GEVEVA CONFERENCE.

4. WHILE IN EGYPT LAST MONTH ON VACATION, ASTROM STOPPED IN CAIRO TO MEET WITH AN UNNAMED VICE FOREIGN MINISTER, WHOM HE HAD KNOWN FROM HIS U.N. DAYS. ASTROM SAID HE HAD SUGGESTED TO HIS EGYPTIAN COUNTERPART THAT, INASMUCH AS EGYPT FEARS THAT A THIRD WORLD MEMBER OF THE UNSC MIGHT INTRODUCE A SYRIAN-INITIATED PROPOSAL IN DEBATE WHICH EGYPT WOULD CONSIDER ITSELF OBLIGATED TO SUPPORT, EGYPT SHOULD REMAIN IN "DAILY CONTACT" WITH ITS THIRD WORLD FRIENDS IN ORDER TO AVERT SUCH A SYRIAN PLOY. ASTROM SAID THE EGYPTIAN WELCOMED HIS SUGGESTION.

5. COMMENT: FROM ASTROM'S COMMENTS, IT APPEARS THAT GOS IS CONCERNED ABOUT PERSISTENT DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF ITS VOTE IN UNSC SUPPORTING PLO PARTICIPATION AND IS DETERMINED TO RATIONALIZE IT BOTH TO SWEDISH PUBLIC AND TO OUTSIDE WORLD. ASTROM WENT TO SOME LENGTH TO DESCRIBE HOW GOS HAD STUDIED POLICY OF ABSTENTION FOLLOWED BY FRANCE AND ITALY IN VOTE, AND HAD CONCLUDED THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE ABSTENTION POSITIONS WERE "WEAK ON GROUNDS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STOCKH 00093 090807Z

OF PRINCIPLE."

WHILE THERE HAS BEEN NO GROUNDSWELL OF PROTEST IN SWEDEN AGAINST GOS VOTE IN SUPPORT OF PLO, CRITICAL COMMENTS IN PARLIAMENT (REF B) AND SOME SECTORS OF PRESS HAVE APPARETNLY MADE GOVERNMENT SENSITIVE TO DOMESTIC CRITICISM. IN ADDITION, LIBERAL PARTY LEADER AHLMARK, WHO RETURNED LAST WEEK FROM ISRAEL WHERE HE MET PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON, TELLS ME HE INTENDS TO

PROTEST GOVERNMENT'S VOTE IN HIS MEETING THIS WEEK WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON.

6. UPON HIS RETURN AFTER THREE WEEKS "CONSULTATIONS" IN
TEL AVIV, ISRAELI AMBASSADOR AVNER IDAN HAS CALLED ON FOREIGN
MINISTER ANDERSSON AND, ACCORDING TO ASTROM, BEEN GIVEN
DEFINITION OF SWEDISH POLICY ADUNBRATED ABOVE.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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